State Of South Dakota

EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION

Office Of The Governor

The greatest acts of courage require both mental poise and physical bravery. On the morning of Sunday, November 16, 1986, several Redfield, South Dakota, men showed such courage in attempts to save a young life.

The fire was first detected at 4:32 a.m. and, before it was done, raged across three quarters of a city block, destroying four businesses, twenty-four apartments and the Senior Citizens Center. Fireman James Haider was one of the first firefighters on the scene. He determined there were people still in the building and quickly equipped himself with Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) to enter the growing inferno, after Police Sergeant David Dosch and Eugene Freshour were beaten back.

Imagine entering a room where you can't see, can't hear - the only sense you can rely on is touch - the air is deadly, the temperature is over one hundred degrees and rising, while a few feet below is a fire trying to eat the floor out from under you. Now you begin to understand what the Redfield Firefighters were experiencing in their attempts to save little Rebecca Nelson. They tried twice, unsuccessfully, each time without regard to their personal safety, and the fire broke through before a third attempt could be made.

True courage was on the streets of Redfield that morning. It was with the neighbors and friends who responded to aid those in need. It was with the families who lost their homes but who resolved to rebuild their dreams. But nowhere was it in more evidence than in the actions of Eugene Freshour, David Dosch and the Redfield Volunteer Fire Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the valor of

JAMES HAIDER

and join his family, friends and neighbors in saluting him for his selfless courage and valor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Governor's Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighth Day of January, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Seven

WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

JOYCE HAZELTINE, SECRETARY OF STATE